

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for inhibiting the activity of COX-2 in an organism, the method comprising the step of administering to the organism a composition comprising a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of an organic extract of a
5 plant, wherein the plant is selected from the order consisting of Agavales, Apocynales, Arales, Asterales, Basidiomycetae, Brassicales, Caryophyllales, Cycadales, Ebenales, Euphorbiales, Fagales, Hydrocharitales, Lamiales, Liliales, Loasales, Malvales, Myrtales, Palmales, Pandanales, Papaverales,
10 Piperales, Polemoniales, Polygalales, Primulales, Ranales, Rhamnales, Rosales, Rubiales, Rutales, Santalales, Sapindales, Scrophulariales, Umbellales, Urticales, and Violales.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitory effect of the extract on COX-2 activity is greater than or equal to about 2 times greater than the inhibitory effect of the extract on COX-1 activity.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitory effect of the extract on COX-2 activity is greater than or equal to about 10 times than the inhibitory effect of the extract on COX-1 activity.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Agavales order is from the family Agavaceae.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the extract of the Agavaceae family is from the Pleomele genus.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Apocynales order is selected from the families consisting of Apocynaceae and Asclepiadaceae.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the extract of the Apocynaceae family is selected from the genera consisting of Bleekeria and Strophanthus.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the extract of the Asclepiadaceae family is from the genus Asclepias.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Arales order is from the Araceae family.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the extract of the Araceae family is selected from the genera consisting of Amorphophallus, Anthurium, and Pinellia.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Asterales order is from the Asteraceae family.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the extract of the Asteraceae family is selected from the genera consisting of Vernonia, Wedelia, and Xanthium.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Basidiomycetae order is from the Polyporaceae family.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the extract of the Polyporaceae family is from the genus Grifola.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Brassicales order is from the family Brassicaceae.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the extract of the Brassicaceae family is from the genera Brassica and Raphanus.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Caryophyllales order is selected from the families consisting

of Caryophyllaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Nyctaginaceae, Phytolaccaceae, and Polygonaceae.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the extract of the Caryophyllaceae family is from the genus Saponaria.

19. The method of claim 17 wherein the extract of the Chenopodiaceae family is from the genus Beta.

20. The method of claim 17 wherein the extract of the Nyctaginaceae family is from the genus Pisonia.

21. The method of claim 17 wherein the extract of the Phytolaccaceae family is from the genus Trichostigma.

22. The method of claim 17 wherein the extract of the Polygonaceae family is from the genera Chorizanthe and Rumex.

23. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Cycadales order is from the family Cycadaceae.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the extract of the Cycadaceae family is from the genus Zamia.

25. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Ebenales order is from the family Ebenaceae.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the extract of the Ebenaceae family is from the genus Diospyros.

27. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Euphorbiales order is from the family Euphorbiaceae.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the extract of the Euphorbiaceae family is selected from the genera consisting of

Croton, Gymnanthes, Macaranga, Manihot, Ostodes, Phyllanthus, and Ricinodendron.

29. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Fagales order is from the family Fagaceae.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein the extract of the Fagaceae family is from the genus Castanopsis.

31. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Hydrocharitales order is from the family Hydrocharitaceae.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein the extract of the Hydrocharitaceae family is from the genus Elodea.

33. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Lamiales order is from the family Verbenaceae.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein the extract of the Verbenaceae family is from the genera Callacarpa and Clerodendron.

35. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Liliales order is selected from the families consisting of Commelinaceae and Liliaceae.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein the extract of the Commelinaceae family is from the genus Tradescantia.

37. The method of claim 35 wherein the extract of the Liliaceae family is from the genera consisting of Lilium and Smilax.

38. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Loasales order is from the family Loasaceae.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein the extract of the Loasaceae family is from the genus Mentzelia.

40. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Malvales order is from the families consisting of Bombaceae, Elaeocarpaceae, and Sterculiaceae.

41. The method of claim 40 wherein the extract of the Bombaceae family is from the genus Quararibeeae.

42. The method of claim 40 wherein the extract of the Elaeocarpaceae family is from the genus Elaeocarpus.

43. The method of claim 40 wherein the extract of the Sterculiaceae family is from the genera consisting of Guazuma, Helicteres, and Melochia.

44. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Myrtales order is from the Myrtaceae family.

45. The method of claim 44 wherein the extract of the Myrtaceae family is from the genera Myrcia and Syzygium.

46. A method for inhibiting the activity of COX-2 in an organism, the method comprising the step of administering to the organism a composition comprising a therapeutically and prophylatically effective amount of an organic extract of a plant, wherein the plant is from the Boletaceae family and the genus Boletus.

47. A method for inhibiting the activity of COX-2 in an organism, the method comprising the step of administering to the organism a composition comprising a therapeutically and prophylatically effective amount of an organic extract of a plant, wherein the plant is from the Cyatheaceae family and the genus Cyatheae.

48. A method for inhibiting the activity of COX-2 in an organism, the method comprising the step of administering to the organism a composition comprising a therapeutically and prophylatically effective amount of an organic extract of a plant, wherein the plant is from the Umbilicariaceae family and the genus Umbilicaria.

49. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Palmales order is from the family Arecaceae.

50. The method of claim 49 wherein the extract of the Arecaceae family is from the genera Caryota, Coccolthrinax, and Scheelea.

51. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Pandanales order is from the family Sparganiaceae.

52. The method of claim 51 wherein the extract of the Sparganiaceae family is from the genus Sparganium.

53. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Papaverales order is from the family Papaveraceae.

54. The method of claim 53 wherein the extract of the Papaveraceae family is from the genus Bocconia.

55. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Piperales order is from the families selected from Chloranthaceae, and Piperaceae.

56. The method of claim 55 wherein the extract of the Chloranthaceae family is from the genus Hedyosmum.

57. The method of claim 55 wherein the extract of the Piperaceae family is selected from the genera consisting of Peperomia and Piper.

58. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Polemoniales order is selected from the families consisting of Boraginaceae and Solanaceae.

59. The method of claim 58 wherein the extract of the Boraginaceae family is selected from the genera consisting of Cordia and Lithospermum.

60. The method of claim 58 wherein the extract of the Solanaceae family is selected from the genera consisting of Capsicum and Solanum.

61. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Polygalales order is selected from the family consisting of Polygalaceae.

62. The method of claim 61 wherein the extract of the Polygalaceae family is selected from the genus consisting of Polygala.

63. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Primulales family is selected from the families consisting of Myrsinaceae and Theophrastaceae.

64. The method of claim 63 wherein the extract of the Myrsinaceae family is from the genus Myrsine.

65. The method of claim 63 wherein the extract of the Theophrastaceae family is from the genus Jacquinia.

66. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Ranales order is from the families consisting of Lauraceae and Ranunculaceae.

67. The method of claim 66 wherein the extract of the Lauraceae family is from the genus Cinnamomum.

68. The method of claim 66 wherein the extract of the Ranunculaceae family is from the genus Paeonia.

69. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Rhamnales order is from the family Rhamnaceae.

70. The method of claim 69 wherein the extract of the Rhamnaceae family is from the genus Ziziphus.

71. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Rosales order is selected from the families consisting of Fabaceae, Rosaceae and Saxifragaceae.

72. The method of claim 71 wherein the extract of the Fabaceae family is selected from the genera consisting of Adenanthera, Albizzia, Cassia, Erythrina, Inga, Millettia, and Tephrosia.

73. The method of claim 71 wherein the extract of the Rosaceae family is from the genus Eriobotrya.

74. The method of claim 71 wherein the extract of the Saxifragaceae family is from the genus Mitella.

75. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Rubiales order is from the family Rubiaceae.

76. The method of claim 75 wherein the extract of the Rubiaceae family is selected from the genera consisting of Berreria, Genipa, Hamelia, Nauclea, and Psychotria.

77. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Rutales order is selected from the families consisting of Meliaceae, Rutaceae, and Simaroubaceae.

78. The method of claim 77 wherein the extract of the Meliaceae family is selected from the genera consisting of Dysoxylum, Scindapsus, and Trichilia.

79. The method of claim 77 wherein the extract of the Rutaceae family is selected from the genera consisting of Clausena and Zanthoxylum.

80. The method of claim 77 wherein the extract of the Simaroubaceae family is selected from the genera consisting of Brucea and Picramnia.

81. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Santalales order is from the family Loranthaceae.

82. The method of claim 81 wherein the extract of the Loranthaceae family is from the genus Phoradendron.

83. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Sapindales order is from the families Anacardiaceae and Icacinaceae.

84. The method of claim 83 wherein the extract of the Anacardiaceae family is from the genus Dracontomelon.

85. The method of claim 83 wherein the extract of the Icacinaceae family is from the genus Pyrenacantha.

86. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Scrophulariales order is selected from the families consisting of Bignoniaceae and Gesneriaceae.

87. The method of claim 86 wherein the extract of the Bignoniaceae family is from the genus Macfadyena.

88. The method of claim 86 wherein the extract of the Gesneriaceae family is from the genus Cyrtandra.

89. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Umbellales order is selected from the families consisting of Apiaceae and Araliaceae.

90. The method of claim 89 wherein the extract of the Apiaceae family is from the genus Apium.

91. The method of claim 89 wherein the extract of the Araliaceae family is from the genera Arthophyllum and Brassaiopsis.

92. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Urticales order is selected from the families consisting of Moraceae and Ulmaceae.

93. The method of claim 92 wherein the extract of the Moraceae family is selected from the genera consisting of Dorstenia, Ficus, and Streblus.

94. The method of claim 92 wherein the extract of the Ulmaceae family is from the genus Celtis.

95. The method of claim 1 wherein the extract of the Violales order is from the family Flacourtiaceae.

96. The method of claim 95 wherein the extract of the Flacourtiaceae family is from the genera Pangium and Ryparosa.

97. The method of claim 1 wherein the organic extract is a purified composition obtained by a method comprising:

(a) contacting the plant with an organic solvent to remove an extract from the plant wherein the extract inhibits COX-2 activity; and

(b) isolating the extract with COX-2 inhibitory activity.

98. The method of claim 97 wherein the extract selectively inhibits COX-2 activity.

99. The method of claim 97 wherein step (a) further comprises mixing the plant with the organic solvent and stirring the resulting mixture at a temperature between about 25° C and the boiling point of said solvent for at least one minute.

100. The method of claim 97 wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon solvents, ethers, chlorinated solvents, acetone, ethyl acetate, butanol, ethanol, methanol, isopropyl alcohol and mixtures thereof.

101. The method of claim 97 wherein the organic solvent is non-polar.

102. The method of claim 101 wherein the non-polar organic solvent is dichloromethane or hexane.

103. The method of claim 97 wherein step (b) further comprises separating the solvent from the organic extract by evaporating the solvent.

104. A method of treating or preventing COX-2 mediated inflammation or an inflammation-associated disorder in an organism, the method comprising administering to the organism a composition comprising a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the purified composition according to claim 97.

105. The method of claim 104 wherein the inflammation-associated disorder is arthritis.

106. The method of claim 104 wherein the inflammation-associated disorder is pain.

107. The method of claim 104 wherein the inflammation-associated disorder is fever.

108. The method of claim 104 for use in the treatment or prevention of cancer.

109. The method of claim 108 wherein the cancer is epithelial cell cancer.

110. The method of claim 109 wherein the epithelial cell cancer is colon, breast, prostate, bladder, or lung cancer.

111. The method of claim 104 for use in the treatment or prevention of central nervous system disorders.

112. The method of claim 111 wherein the central nervous system disorder is Alzheimer's Disease.